

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension of)	
)	
the Educator Certificate of)	CONSENT ORDER OF
)	
David A. Corley, Sr.)	SUSPENSION
)	
Certificate # 095724)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 9, 2004. On November 21, 2003, the South Carolina Department of Education (Department) sent Mr. David A. Corley a notice of his right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate (certificate) number 095724 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Mr. Corley received the notice as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing his signature. On December 8, 2003, Mr. Corley requested a hearing, which was scheduled for July 14, 2004, before John J. Fantry, Jr., Esquire, a hearing officer appointed by the State Board. Mr. Corley subsequently agreed through his attorney, Jack B. Swerling, Esquire, to resolve the case without a hearing. Mr. Corley agreed to the voluntary suspension of his certificate for a three-year period. The suspension period would commence retroactively on January 1, 2003, and end November 31, 2005. This agreement gives Mr. Corley the right to apply for the reinstatement of his certificate after December 31, 2005. If he chooses to apply for reinstatement, Mr. Corley must pass a character fitness review by the State Board. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the voluntary surrender of Mr. Corley's certificate upon the terms set forth above.

David
Corley
No.#
095724

Initial
Here

Date

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Corley holds a valid South Carolina certificate with over twenty-eight years of teaching experience credit. Mr. Corley has worked with the Fairfield County School

District (District) from 1991-2002 and was formerly the principal at Fairfield Central High School (FCHS).

A review by the District's external auditor found that between January 1, 1997 and April 1, 2000, Mr. Corley had converted public funds to his own use while acting as principal at FCHS. The District fired Mr. Corley on June 21, 2002, during its investigation into the allegations of financial mismanagement at the school. On November 4, 2003, Mr. Corley pled guilty to the charge of Misconduct in Office, and paid the District restitution in the amount of \$2,348.76 for gas purchases he used for his personal vehicle.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004). Just cause includes "(4) Unprofessional conduct ...(7) Crime against the law of this State of the United States...." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). The State Board finds that the preponderance of the evidence presented supports its decision to accept the retroactive suspension of Mr. Corley's certificate # 095724, from January 1, 2003, through December 31, 2005, upon the conditions set forth above. If he wishes to have his certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, Mr. Corley may make a written request to the Office of Teacher Certification of the Department and must pass a character fitness review by the State Board.

David
Corley
No.#
095724

Initial
Here

Date

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Mary E. Jones

Dr. Mary E. Jones

Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

November 9, 2004

I, David A. Corley, SC Teaching Certificate 095724, do hereby agree to the proposed Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board of Education for approval on Tuesday, November 9, 2004.

/S/ David Corley
David A. Corley

11/02/2004
Date